

## **ADHS COVID-19 MEMO**

Thank you for your continued support and partnership in helping the Arizona Department of Health Services (Department) address COVID-19 in Arizona. In the continuing spirit of transparency and collaboration, the Department would like to inform you of the three most salient COVID-19 issues that the Department is currently addressing:

6/4/2020

- Dr. Christ appeared alongside Governor Ducey, Major General McGuire, and Colonel Silbert at a [press conference](#) today to provide updates on Arizona's COVID-19 response and ongoing activities.
- ADHS continues to support skilled nursing facilities in order to prevent and control COVID-19 spread in these settings serving Arizona's vulnerable adults.
  - ADHS has worked with partners to facilitate testing of all staff and residents in state licensed skilled nursing facilities. To date, specimen collection has occurred among 8227 staff and residents affiliated with 71 facilities. An additional 16 facilities will be doing their own specimen collection. Testing is scheduled to be completed at all 147 facilities next week.
  - ADHS Licensing surveyors have also conducted phone-based infection control surveys with 100% of these facilities and in-person infection control surveys with 88% of them. All facilities will receive an in-person survey by next week.
- ADHS continues to coordinate with the Arizona Department of Corrections, Rehabilitation and Reentry to facilitate testing of staff and contractors with inmate contact and to support implementation of infection control.
  - Serology testing is available to ADCRR staff and contractors through the University of Arizona, which has 31 testing sites throughout the state. In addition, Sonora Quest Labs has been contracted to complete onsite testing, particularly for prison facilities in rural areas without adequate healthcare access.
  - ADHS has completed Infection Control Assessment and Response surveys for all state prison complexes and will follow up with onsite visits through the month of June.

The link below provides the most up-to-date health surveillance figures regarding COVID-19 in Arizona. <https://www.azdhs.gov/preparedness/epidemiology-disease-control/infectious-disease-epidemiology/covid-19/dashboards/index.php>

Thank you for your investment in helping Arizona address COVID-19 in Arizona.

## **COVID-19 RESOURCES**

- NCAI COVID-19 Data\* - **Situation Summary** (June 4, 2020)
- NCAI COVID-19 Data\* - **IHS Area Data Summary** (June 4, 2020)
- Watch part 3 of NCAI's "Tribal Governments in Action" forum: **Leveraging Cares Act Funding for Response and Recovery**.

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PREVIOUS ADHS COVID-19 MEMOS:  
6/3/2020

- An opinion piece authored by Superintendent Hoffman and Dr. Christ was published on [AZCentral](#) today. The article discusses the importance of school in children's health and well being and steps schools and parents can take to safely reopen.
- Our ADHS team, in partnership with DEMA, and the National Guard, continue to work tirelessly to receive, repackage, and distribute needed PPE throughout Arizona. For example, to date, nearly 500,000 respirators have been distributed. In addition, the [Battelle critical care decontamination system](#) is in place, providing an opportunity for healthcare and first response agencies to decontaminate their N95 respirators for safe reuse. As of today, 399 entities have registered to use this resource.
- We recently updated guidance for dentists on our [Healthcare Provider webpage](#). This information is on the Dental Care tab at the bottom of the page.

6/2/2020

- Today we launched a [new webpage](#) showing where Arizonans can go for COVID-19 testing. Additional sites will be added on an ongoing basis. Sites interested in being listed can complete the form [here](#).
- Today we had a large increase in reported cases, up 1,127 from the prior day. This brings our total number of COVID-19 cases in Arizona to 21,250. As testing continues to increase and reopening is phased in, we expect to see increases in cases. COVID-19 is still in our community. ADHS continues to monitor data including case counts, percent positivity, and hospital status.
- ADHS encourages people, especially those vulnerable to severe complications of disease, to [take prevention measures](#). We continue to update guidance on our website as new information is available. Today, we posted new resources from CDC with guidance for [going out](#) and for [using transportation](#).

6/1/2020

- This morning we updated our [data dashboard](#) to show COVID-19 cases and deaths broken down by their classification - probable or confirmed. Hovering over the case or death count on the Summary section of the dashboard will show this information. We [published a blog today](#) providing additional background on case definitions and how they are used to conduct epidemiologic surveillance for reportable communicable diseases nationwide.
- This weekend wrapped up the Arizona Testing Blitz, with between 30 and 80 sites participating across 10 of Arizona's 15 counties. Complete data from the events is not yet available, but the participation of the provider community significantly increased

testing availability in Arizona in May, with May diagnostic (PCR) testing numbers nearly tripling compared to April based on reports to date. We are so appreciative of Arizona healthcare providers for their support of these events.

- Additional PPE continues to arrive at our warehouse for distribution to local health departments to share with their healthcare and first response partners. This weekend we received specimen collection materials, isolation gowns, and other critical supplies.

5/29/2020

- Tomorrow is the final day of the May [Arizona Testing Blitz](#). Nearly 50 sites around Arizona are participating. In the coming days, we will be standing up a website listing testing locations around the state with their hours of operation to provide better situational awareness of where Arizonans can go to be tested.
- Yesterday, Governor Ducey signed an [executive order](#) to assist Arizona families with child care. The order allows ADHS to waive certain child care licensing requirements for facilities providing care to school age children. Additional information about child care facilities with approved waivers will be posted on the Department's [Child Care Licensing webpage](#).
- We continue to update our [COVID-19 FAQs](#) as new information emerges. Recent FAQ updates include information about COVID-19 symptoms and background on Multisystem Inflammatory Syndrome in Children.

5/28/2020

- In today's press conference with Governor Ducey, Dr. Christ discussed the success of the [Arizona Surge Line](#), a tool highlighted as a best practice by CMS that offers a free statewide 24/7 call line to quickly coordinate the transfer, admission, and discharge of COVID-19 patients. To date, the Arizona Surge Line has facilitated the transfer of over 400 patients to an appropriate level of care.
- [Guidance was released today](#) to provide best practices for opening of organized youth activities, such as youth sports.
- ADHS continues to monitor and post a variety of COVID-19 data, including hospital-related data. A top priority is ensuring the health of our healthcare system. Some of the critical data points for assessing this are the Hospital Bed Usage & Availability and Ventilator Usage & Availability sections of the [data dashboard](#). Both of these indicators demonstrate current availability of inpatient beds, ICU beds, and ventilators in Arizona

5/27/2020

- Today, ADHS hosted a series of meetings with hospital, laboratory, and skilled nursing facility partners with responsibility for reporting under the updated enhanced surveillance advisory ([Executive Order 2020-37](#)) to discuss responsibilities under the advisory and answer questions about reporting.
- Approximately 10 million face masks and face shields were sorted by our warehouse team and loaded on trucks for distribution to county and tribal health departments for further distribution to healthcare and first response partners.

- Over 40 sites in eight counties have signed on to participate in Saturday's Arizona Testing Blitz. More information is available at [azhealth.gov/testingblitz](https://azhealth.gov/testingblitz).

5/26/2020

- Updated COVID-19 projections and models are now available from university and federal partners. An [ADHS Director's blog posted today](#) provides more details and links to the latest models.
- ADHS continues to host and participate in calls with multiple partners in order to ensure a coordinated response and mechanisms for feedback. Just today, ADHS participated in separate calls with DEMA, county health officials, Navajo Nation and associated partners, ArMA, CDC, the Vice President, and other individual partners.
- The [Workplaces and Community section](#) on our COVID-19 webpage was recently updated. Tabs on the bottom of the page for businesses, law enforcement, faith-based organizations, restaurants, and shelters provide reopening guidance for these various settings.